



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 23, 2012**

### **Alaska Military Youth Academy to graduate 130 cadets**

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska** – The Alaska Military Youth Academy will celebrate the graduation of 130 cadets of Class 2012-1 from its ChalleNGe program Friday.

The graduation ceremony will be held at Buckner Physical Fitness Center on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson at 10 a.m. The guest speaker for the graduation is U.S. Congressman Don Young.

After a 22-week residential phase of the AMYA ChalleNGe program that has focused on academics, military style discipline and training, and community service, the 130 cadets set to graduate from the Alaska Military Youth Academy will join the 3,528 previous graduates since 1994.

Upon graduation, cadets take part in the yearlong post-residential phase where graduates return to their communities to enter the workplace, continue their education either in high school or higher education, or enter the military. The goal of this phase is for graduates to sustain and build on the gains made during the residential phase.

The Alaska Military Youth Academy continues to intervene in and reclaim the lives of youth and produce program graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults.

**Who:** Alaska Military Youth Academy  
**What:** Graduation ceremony for 130 cadets  
**Where:** Buckner Physical Fitness Center, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson  
**When:** Friday, Feb. 24 10 a.m.

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